

Lesson 6: How to Create Neon Text

Most people love neon lights. We think they make regular light fixtures sexy. The mood completely changes when you see a neon light in a dark street or hallway as opposed to a boring regular light fixture. Because we love neon lights so much, we thought you'd like to learn how to make this effect in Designer.

This lesson has two parts. First, we'll show you how to create a cool outline text effect and then we'll teach you how to convert this text effect into a cool neon text effect.

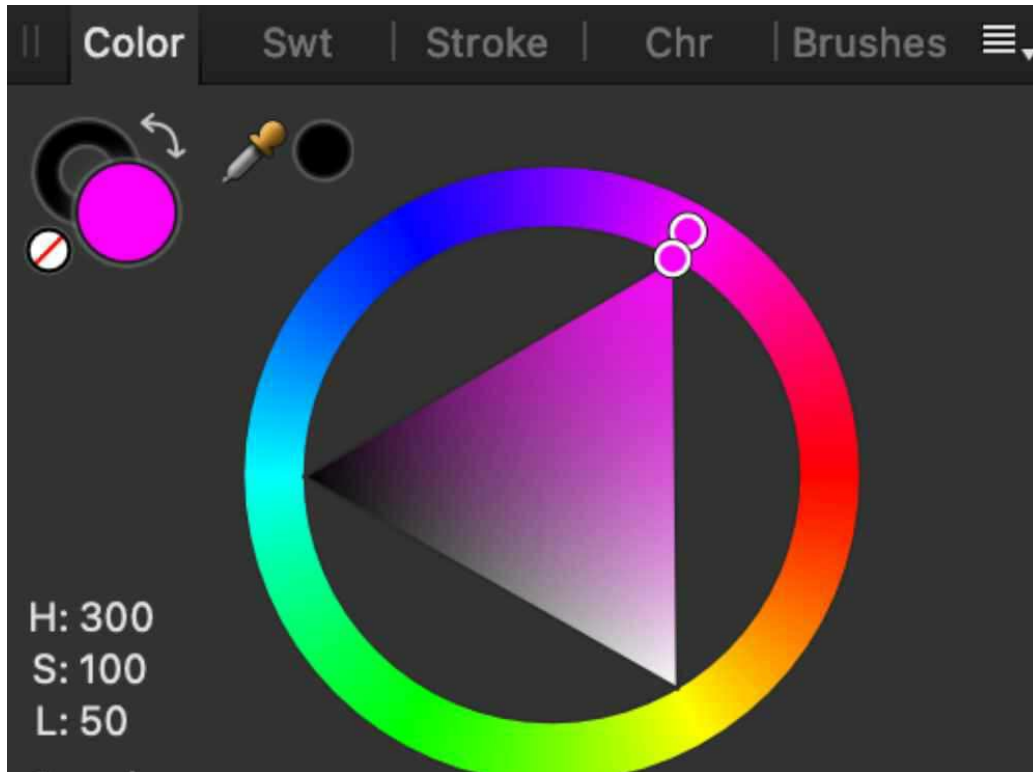
Ready to start? Pay attention to the document specifics. They are a bit different.

Create a **New Document** to these specifics:

- **Web - CD Cover Digital Release**
- **Page Height 1500 px**
- **Transparent background** (*checked*)

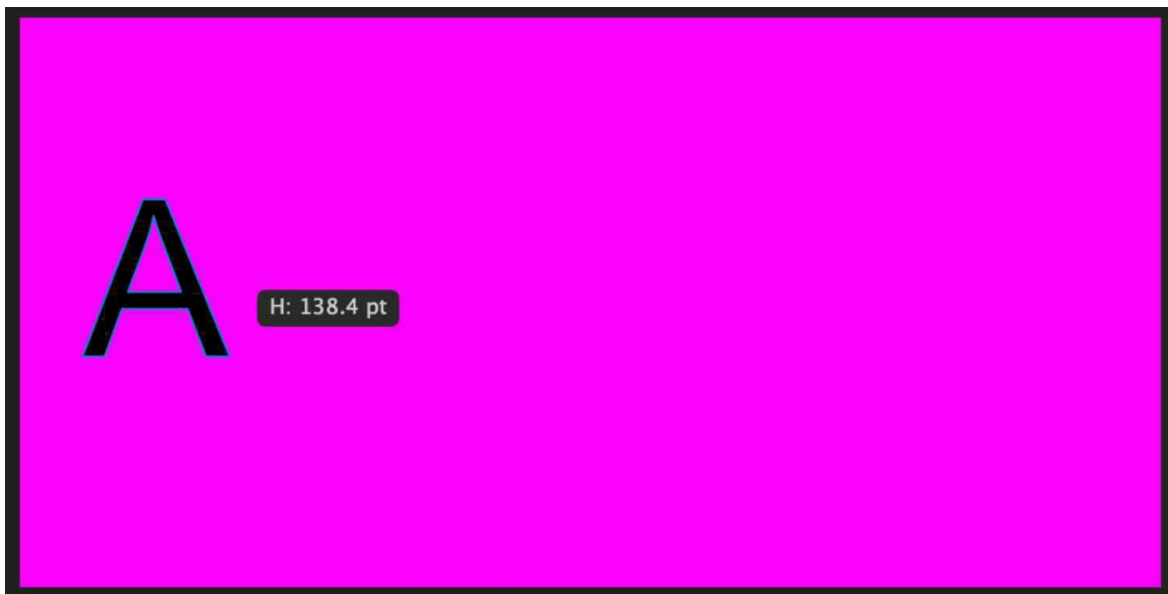
Click on the **Rectangle Tool** so it's active & *drag* a **rectangle** over the entire document.

Go to the **Color Panel** and *change* its **color** to **pink** by clicking on the Pink hue on the outside ring of the HSL Color Wheel. Our HSL value is: H300, S100, L50.



Press the **Esc** key (or *click anywhere on the canvas*) to *deselect* the Rectangle layer. No layers will be selected before we do the next step.

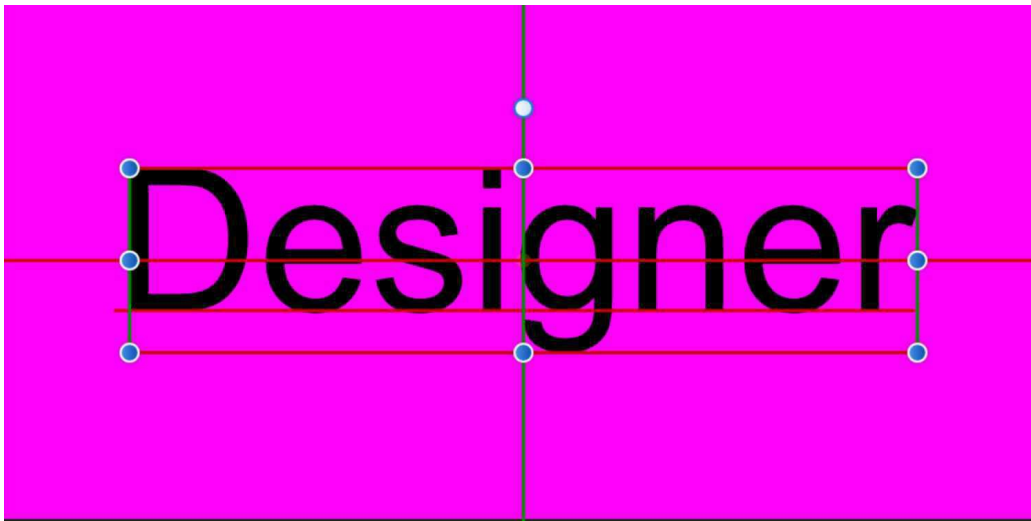
Click on the **Artistic Text Tool** & *drag out the size of our first letter*. If you want to match ours size, it's **H: 138.4 pt** (see the pop-out window next to the letter).



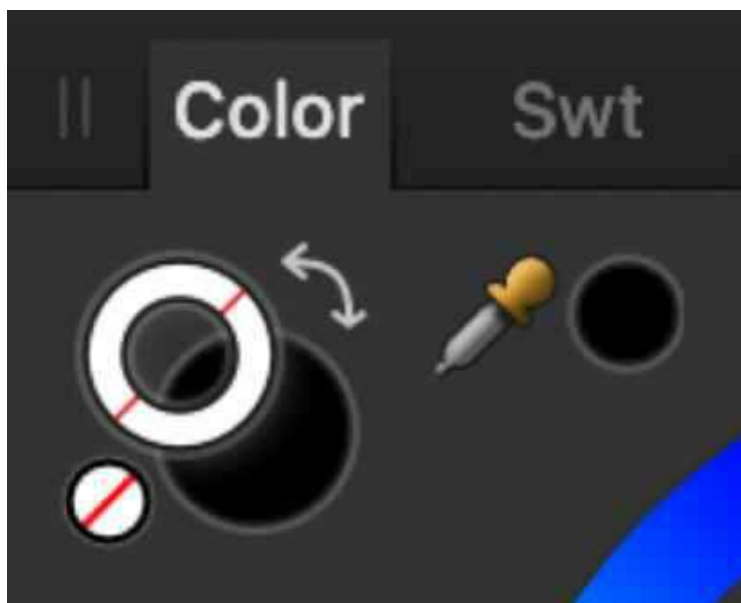
Type **Designer.**

Go to the **top right area of the Toolbar** and make sure **Snapping** is active. You know the buttons on the Toolbar are active if their buttons are darker than their neighbors. The icon for Snapping looks like an old red horseshoe magnet.

Select the **Move Tool** and *center* the **word** "Designer" to the middle of the document. Because Snapping is active, when you try to center the word two crosshair lines will appear (see this image below).



Go to the **Colors Panel** & *click* on the **Stroke doughnut** so it's in front of the Fill circle.

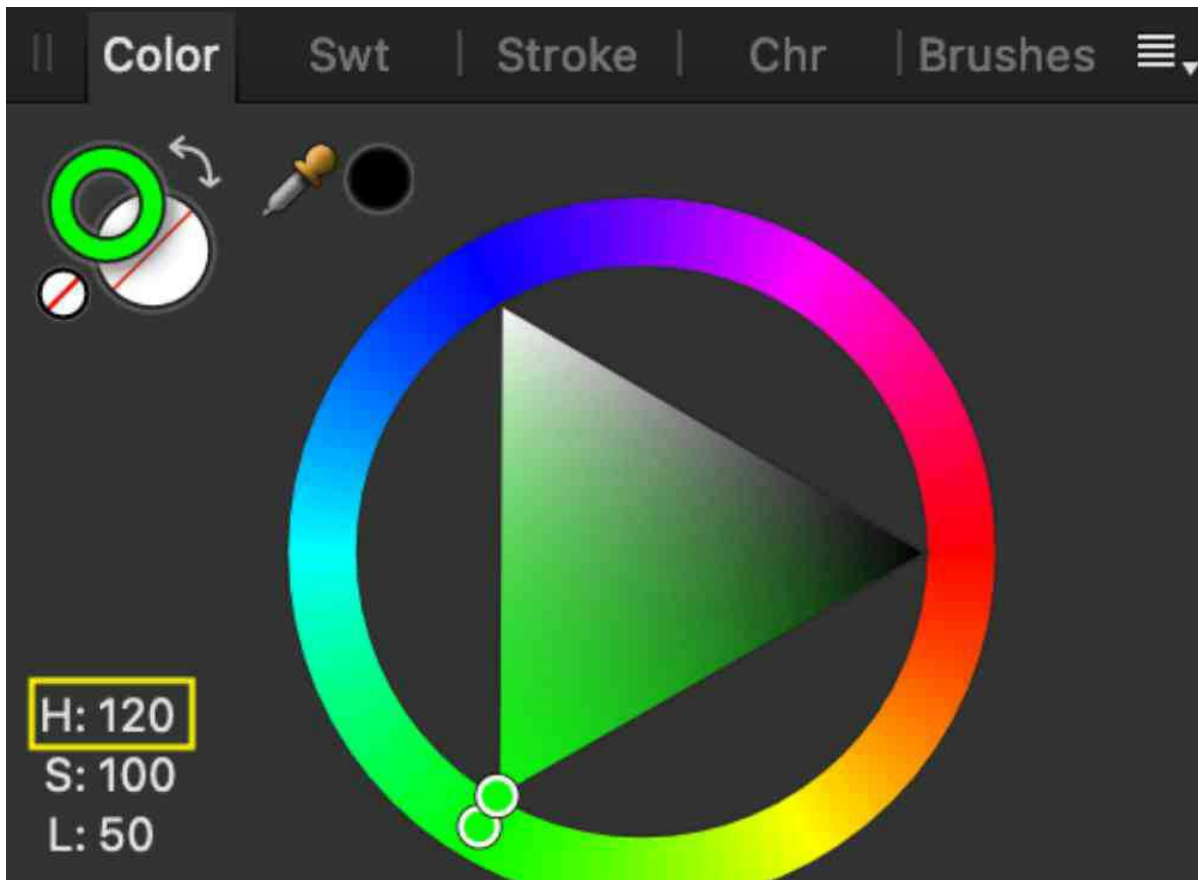


Note: Working with Text can be frustrating if you forget to place the Stroke or the Fill in the foreground. We know this frustration because we've made this mistake countless times. We'll start doing an edit and it won't work and we're like, "Oh, yeah, our Stroke isn't in front of the..."

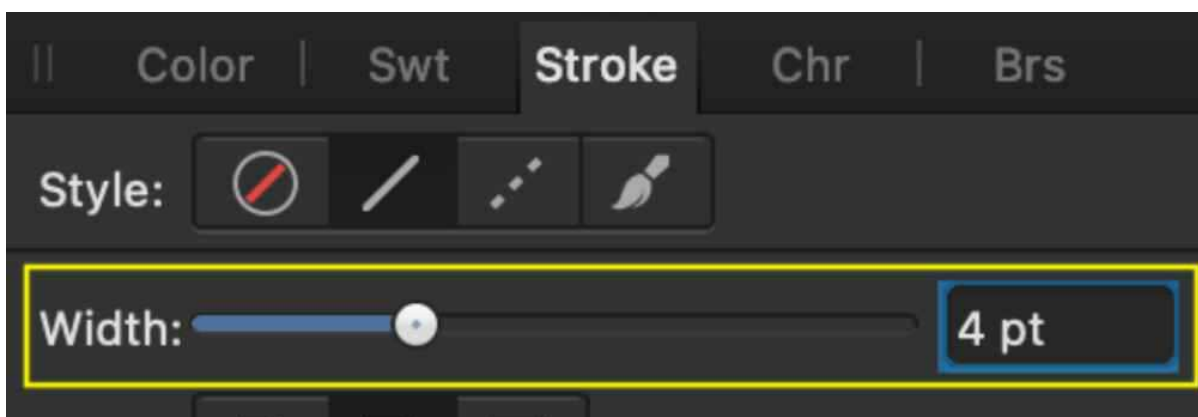
With the stroke doughnut in front of the Fill circle, *click* on a nice **green color** on the outside ring of the Color Wheel. Green is a complimentary color to pink. When you do this, you won't see any changes to the text, but you will in the next step.

Note: When using the HSL Color Wheel it is possible to find an exact color, like green. The primary and secondary colors on the outside ring of this wheel are differentiated by degrees. Here is a list of what to look for in the H: value (see the yellow rectangle in the below image). For each of these primary and secondary colors, the level of Saturation is 100% and the level of Luminosity is 50%. Use the Sliders window if you want more precision with the HSL color format.

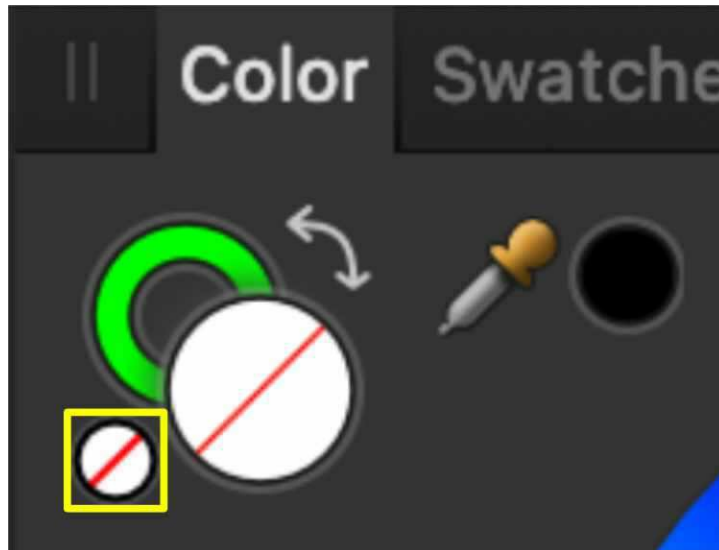
- **Red** is 0° & 360°.
- **Yellow** is 60°
- **Green** is 120°
- **Cyan** is 180°
- **Blue** is 240°
- **Magenta** is 300°



Click on the **Stroke** tab and adjust its **Width** to **4 pt.** (see the yellow rectangle in the below image). You can either *move the slider* in the yellow rectangle or you can *double-click* in its **value box** and type **4** (our preferred method).



Click again on the **Color** tab and then *click* on the **Fill circle** so it's in front of the Stroke doughnut.



Click on the **no color circle** (see yellow square in the image above) so the Fill portion of each letter disappears.

Done. You now know how to create an outline text effect. If you'd like to change the background color from pink to black, all you'd have to do is click on the bottom Rectangle layer and go to the Color Wheel and move the inner color node (in the triangle) into the black corner.

This is what our text looks like with a black background.

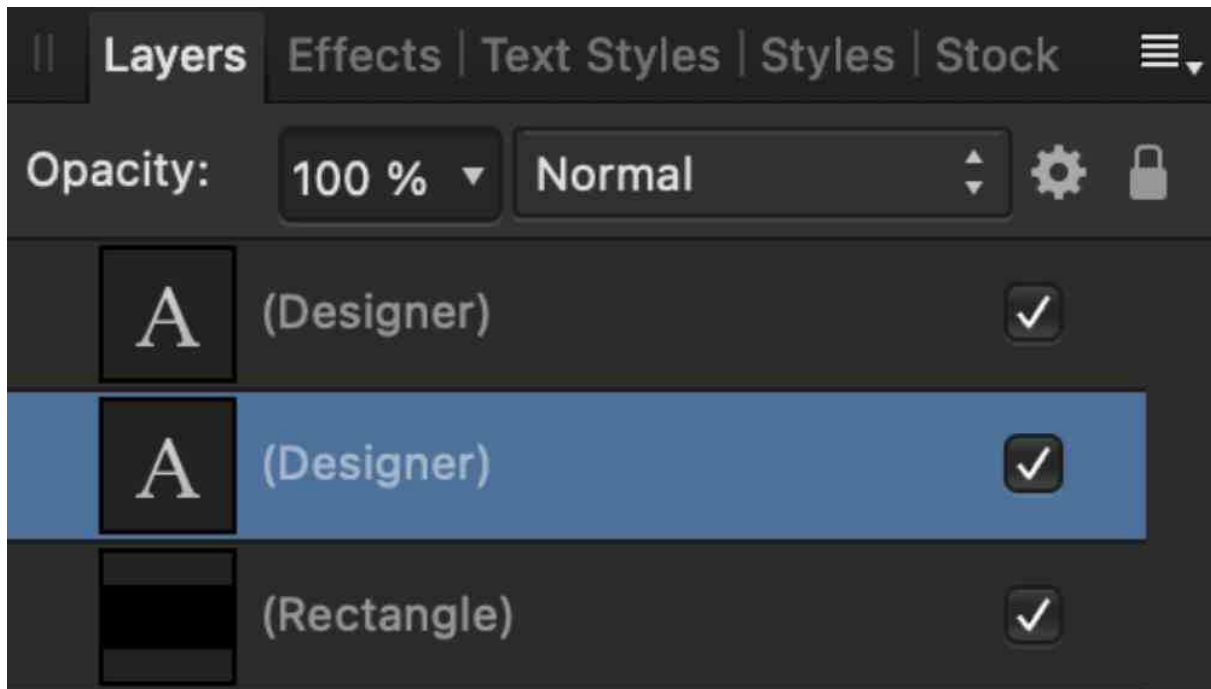


Let's now create a cool neon effect.

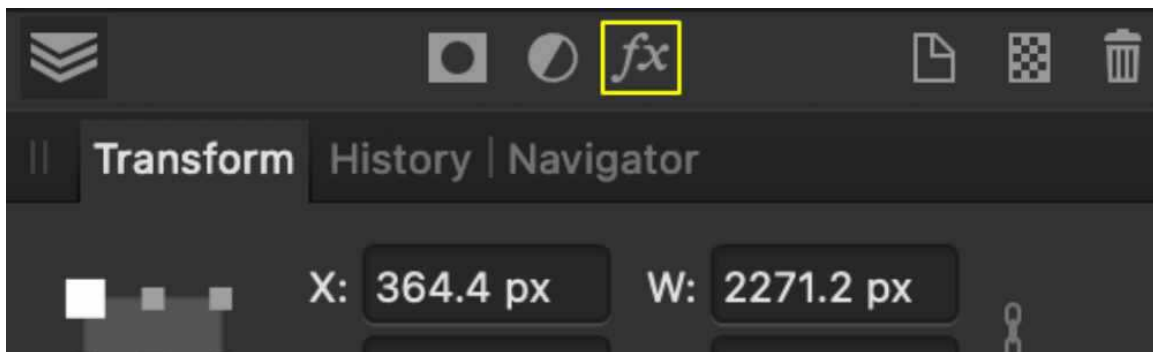
Go to the **Layers Panel** and *click* on the **top layer** so it's highlighted in blue. Ignore this step if it's already done. Never hurts to double-check.

Press **Ctrl/Cmd+J** to **duplicate** the layer.

Click on the **middle layer** so it's now highlighted in blue.



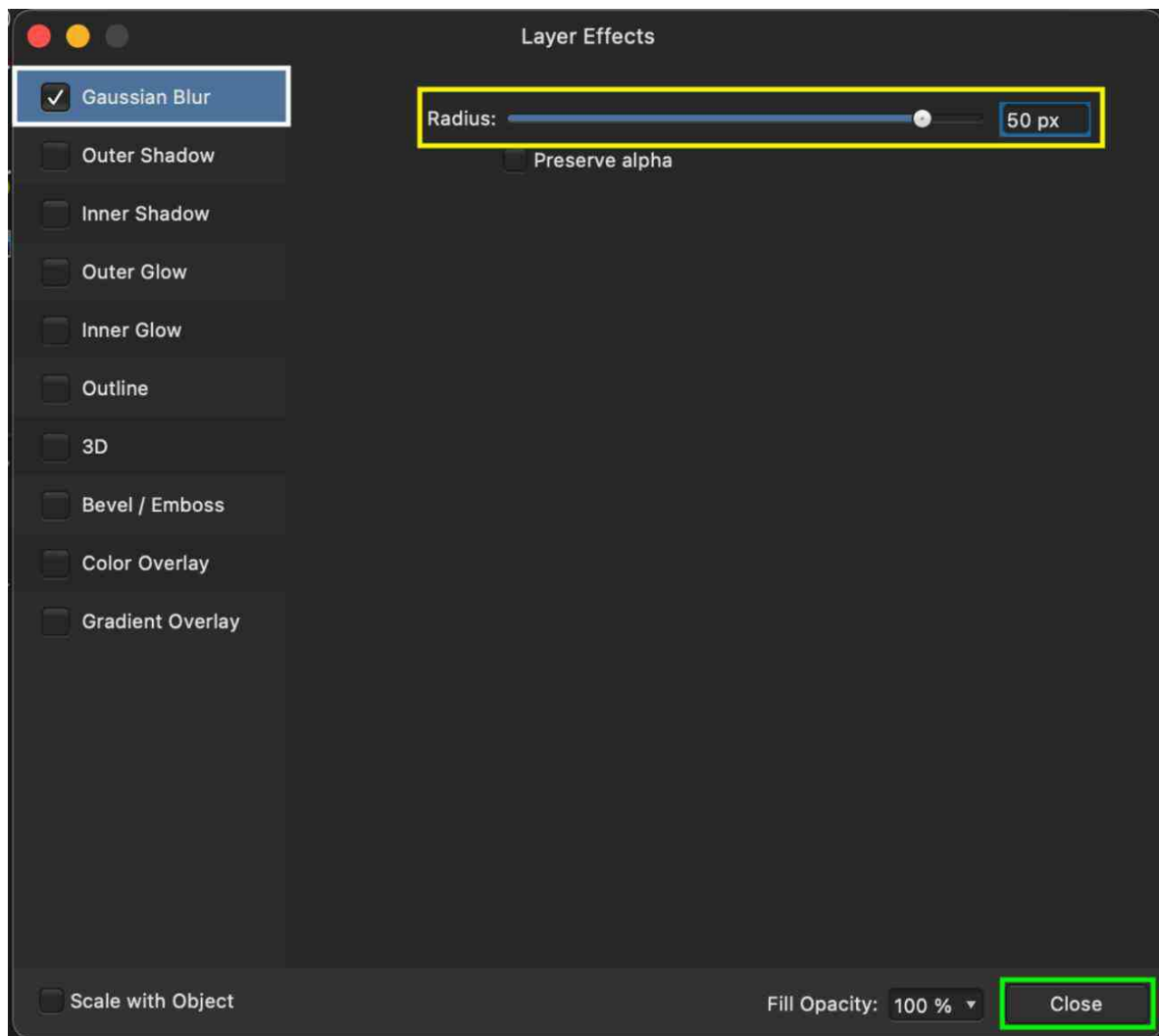
Go to the **icons bar** located under the Layer Panel and *click* on the **Layer Effects icon (fx)**. When you do this, a pop-out window will appear with several different layer effects to choose from.



Note: We call this bar of icons the Icon Bar, but that's just us. It's not called this by the creators of Affinity Photo. We like the name because it's a location on the screen that we go to very often, especially when we use Affinity Photo.

Check the **box** for **Gaussian Blur** (white rectangle) and *adjust* its **Radius** to **50 px** (yellow rectangle) by using the slider or typing in its value box.

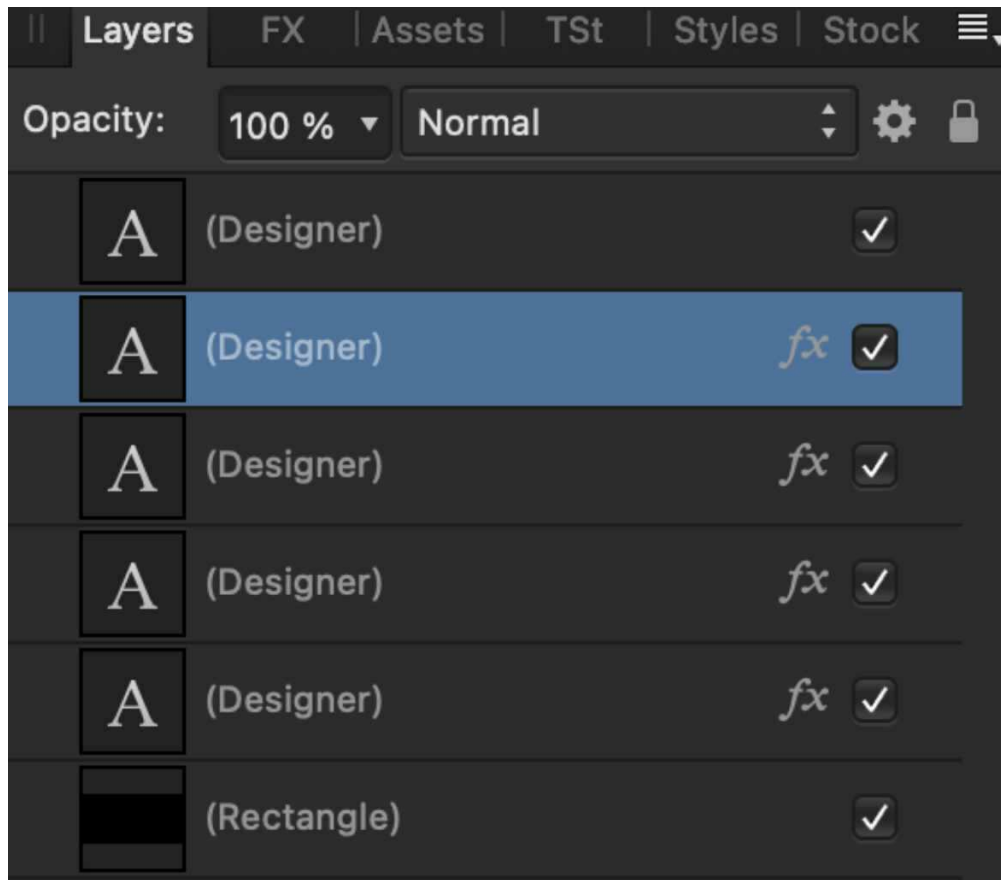
Press **Close** when done (green rectangle).



Now, all we have to do is duplicate this layer with the layer effects icon on it three times. Each time you duplicate it, the neon glow effect will double its intensity. If you'd like more, then duplicate away. If you'd like a more subtle glow, then less duplicates.

*Press **Ctrl/Cmd+J** **three times** to create our neon text effect.*

This is what our Layers Panel looks like now:



Done. This is our final image. Looks nice, doesn't it? You now know how to create a cool neon text effect.



Finished. This ends this lesson.